uses are complex, and causes and effects of pollution are hard to identify and poorly understood. In order for the ground water issue to take a high-priority position on the public agenda, the issue needs to be perceived as both a matter of broad social concern and one requiring technical resolution. To facilitate political mobilization, public participation, and support, the committee recommends the following at every governmental level:

« Decision-making processes concerning ground water should be characterized by openness, should reflect consideration of public attitudes, and should include active participation of public health and environmental interest groups, industry, and the public.

« Attention should be directed to the need to attract and develop high-level political leadership to shepherd ground water protection legislation and ensure commitment to continued funding and implementation of ground water programs.

- Communication networks must be established and maintained between ground water program managers and the media. Media coverage of ground water issues is more likely to be fair and balanced when managers have established a reputation for openness and accuracy. The scientific community should also share responsibility for assisting in dissemination of clear, accurate, and understandable information by the media.
- The sharing and exchange of information regarding ground water protection problems and programs for their resolution should be an ongoing component of every program. This may be achieved through various activities and mechanisms, including regular community meetings, workshops, and symposia that provide full opportunity for discussion, reaction, and recommendation by the interested community concerning the program and issues.
- Ongoing educational activities about ground water in the context of environmental protection should be undertaken in the school system at all grade levels.
- States should play a key role in expanding the number of well-trained hydrogeologists by providing more support of hydrogeologic programs within state universities and colleges.
- A public intervener-type program should be considered when public confidence or interest is not recognized or adequately incorporated in ground water protection programs. A program such as those in Wisconsin and New Jersey can provide the public with an avenue for legal action to address a perceived problem, and at the same time prevent nonmeritorious suits from being filed against an agency. The public intervener should not be subject to political pressure or changes in administrative policy. An independent public advisory group could help to screen the actions to be taken.